

No.: 10/705,968

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached drawing sheet includes changes to Figure 2, and replaces the original sheet.

Attachments: Replacement Sheet

Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated February 23, 2005. Claims 2 and 23 have been cancelled herein, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 1, 3 to 22 and 24 to 45 remain in the application, of which Claims 1, 21, 33, 34 and 45 are the independent claims. Claims 1, 15, 16, 21, 29, 33, 34 and 45 have been amended. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Initially, Claims 15, 16, and 29 have been amended to alter their claim dependencies, and the specification has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections to the claims and specification are therefore respectfully requested.

Although drawings were objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) for allegedly failing to show the features of a microprocessor and DC power, Applicant respectfully asserts that such illustrations are not required. While it is true that 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) requires drawings to "show every feature of the inventions specified in the claims," it is also true that 37 C.F.R. § 1.81(a) only requires Applicant to "furnish a drawing of his or her invention where necessary for the understanding of the subject matter sought to be patented." *See* 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) and 37 C.F.R. § 1.81(a). Given that the present invention discloses a light display power box, Applicant respectfully asserts that one skilled in the art would not need a depiction of a microprocessor in order to understand the advantage or operation of such a device, nor would one skilled in the art need to be shown a DC power supply, when described as an alternative to an illustrated AC power plug, in order to understand the operation of such a power source.

That stated, however, Applicant has amended Figure 2 and the specification to even further illustrate and clarify the features of microprocessor 201 and DC power source 205. Support for

these features is found throughout the disclosure, including page 6 of the specification, as filed. No new matter has been added herein. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the drawing objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, 4 to 11, 13, 16, 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0154787 ("Rice"); Claims 21 to 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Rice; Claims 1, 2, 14, 15, 17, 20, 21, 23, and 29 to 45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,424,096 ("Lowe") in view of Rice; and Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Rice in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0150984 ("Robertson"). As indicated above, Claims 2 and 23 have been cancelled herein, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and without conceding the correctness of their rejection. Furthermore, independent Claims 1, 21, 33, 34, and 45 have been amended to include the substance of cancelled Claim 2, further clarifying the feature of a transmitter which selectively establishes defined light display patterns for the string of clear lights and the string of colored lights. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 102 and § 103 rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention generally concerns the display of clear lights and colored lights, by providing power to a light display power box having a series of outlets for receiving at least one string of clear lights and at least one string of colored lights, and selecting command signals on a transmitter, where the command signals correspond to defined light display patterns for the at least one string of clear lights and the at least one string of colored lights. The command signals are sent from the transmitter to a sensor unit electrically coupled to the light display power box, and the command signals are received, processed and used through a microprocessor housed within the light display power box, so as to display selected defined light display patterns corresponding to the command signals on the at least one string of clear lights and the at least one string of colored lights.

The applied art is not seen to teach or to suggest the features of the present invention. Specifically, the applied art is not seen to disclose at least the feature of a transmitter which selectively establishes defined light display patterns for the string of clear lights and the string of colored lights.

Referring specifically to claim language, independent Claim 1 describes a light display power box including a plurality of outlets, including a first of the plurality of outlets adapted to receive at least one string of clear lights, and a second of the plurality of outlets adapted to receive at least one string of colored lights, a sensor unit adapted to receive command signals, and electronic circuitry including a microprocessor programmed to receive, process, and use the command signals to cause the at least one string of colored lights and the at least one string of clear lights to illuminate either together or separately according to a selected light display pattern. The light display power box further includes a transmitter for generating command signals, where the transmitter includes a plurality of control buttons for selecting the command signals for transmission to the sensor unit, thereby selectively establishing defined light display patterns for the string of clear lights and the string of colored lights, and a power plug adapted to connect to a power source for providing power to the light display power box.

Independent Claim 21 describes a light display power box including six outlets, where a first three of the outlets are adapted to receive at least one string of clear lights, and a second three of the outlets are adapted to receive at least one string of colored lights, where the at least one string of colored lights includes lights of at least two different colors. The light display power box also includes a sensor unit adapted to receive command signals, and electronic circuitry including a microprocessor programmed to receive, process, and use the command signals to cause the at least one string of colored lights and the at least one string of clear lights to illuminate either together or

separately according to a selected light display pattern. Additionally, the light display power box includes a transmitter for generating command signals, where the transmitter includes a plurality of control buttons for selecting the command signals for transmission to the sensor unit, thereby selecting defined light display patterns for the string of clear lights and the string of colored lights, and a power plug adapted to connect to a power source for providing power to the light display power box.

Independent Claim 33 describes a light display system including a plurality of outlets, including a first of the plurality of outlets adapted to receive a string of clear lights, and a second of the plurality of outlets adapted to receive a string of colored lights, and a sensor unit adapted to receive wireless command signals. The light display system also includes a remote control transmitter for generating the command signals, where the transmitter includes a plurality of control buttons for selecting the command signals for transmission to the sensor unit, thereby selecting defined light display patterns for the string of clear lights and the string of colored lights. The light display system further includes electronic circuitry including a microprocessor programmed to receive, process, and use the wireless command signals to cause the string of colored lights and the string of clear lights to illuminate according to a selected light display pattern, and a power plug adapted to connect to an AC power source for providing power to the light display system.

Independent Claim 34 describes a method of displaying clear lights and colored lights, including the steps of providing power to a light display power box having a series of outlets for receiving at least one string of clear lights and at least one string of colored lights, and selecting command signals on a transmitter, where the command signals correspond to defined light display patterns for the at least one string of clear lights and the at least one string of colored lights. The method also includes the steps of sending the command signals from the transmitter to a sensor unit

electrically coupled to the light display power box, and receiving, processing, and using the command signals through a microprocessor housed within the light display power box, so as to display selected defined light display patterns corresponding to the command signals on the at least one string of clear lights and the at least one string of colored lights.

Independent Claim 45 describes a method of displaying clear lights and colored lights including the steps of providing power to a light display power box having a series of outlets for receiving at least one string of clear lights and at least one string of colored lights, and selecting wireless command signals on a remote control transmitter, where the wireless command signals correspond to defined light display patterns for the at least one string of clear lights and the at least one string of colored lights. The method also includes the steps of sending the wireless command signals from the remote control transmitter to a sensor unit electrically coupled to the light display power box, and receiving, processing, and using the wireless command signals through a microprocessor housed within the light display power box and programmed to process the wireless command signals received by the sensor unit, so as to display selected light display patterns corresponding to the wireless command signals.

Rice, on the other hand, discloses a “modular light dancer controller” for use with lighting displays, which creates multi-colored lighting displays in response to sound. See Rice, Abstract; and ¶ [0225]. As a sound source plays music, an audio processing module divides the music into frequency bands, and controls different colored lights based upon the amplitude and spectral content of the sound, sending switching signals over a wired or wireless control link. See Rice, ¶¶ [0229], [0230] and [0239].

Although it is true that Rice bases the switching control signals upon the amplitude and spectral content of sound, it is also true that these control signals do not selectively establish defined

light display patterns for a string of clear lights and a string of colored lights. Indeed, Rice is not seen to make any distinction between clear lights and colored lights that would justify selectively defining corresponding light display patterns for each. In Rice, the assignment of sound frequency bands to light string colors is not described, leaving only the inference that sound frequency band assignments are hardwired to individual power output channels, and are thus not affected by the color or clarity of the light strings attached thereto. See Rice, ¶ [0228]. As further evidence of this, Rice establishes light display patterns for colored lights in the provided example, but does not establish a defined light display pattern for a string of clear lights at all. See Rice, ¶¶ [0231], [0232]. By failing to take into account the type of light string connected to the switching system, and by not providing defined light display patterns for both clear and color lights, Rice is not seen to teach or suggest the many features of the present invention, including the feature of a transmitter which selectively establishes defined light display patterns for a string of clear lights and a string of colored lights.

Lowe is not seen to remedy the deficiencies of Rice. Specifically, Lowe is seen to provide for a hand-held transmitter which delivers infrared control signals to a receiver connected to light strings. See Lowe, Abstract. Although Lowe teaches that each of the light strings may be of the same color or of different colors, the display pattern selection is seen to control all of the attached lights and/or light strings uniformly, without regard to the color or clarity of the lights. See Lowe, col. 7, ll. 20 to 25. Since no distinction is seen to be made between colored light display patterns and clear light display patterns, Lowe is also not seen to teach or suggest the feature of a transmitter which selectively establishes defined light display patterns for a string of clear lights and a string of colored lights.

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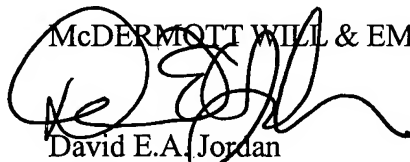
Since neither Rice nor Lowe are seen to provide for a transmitter which selectively establishes defined light display patterns for a string of clear lights and a string of colored lights, these applied reference are not seen to disclose or to suggest the combination of features of independent Claims 1, 21, 33, 34, and 45, which are believed to be in condition for allowance.

The remaining claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims and are believed to be allowable over the applied reference for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define additional aspects of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that the entire application is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Orange County office by telephone at (949) 851-0633. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,


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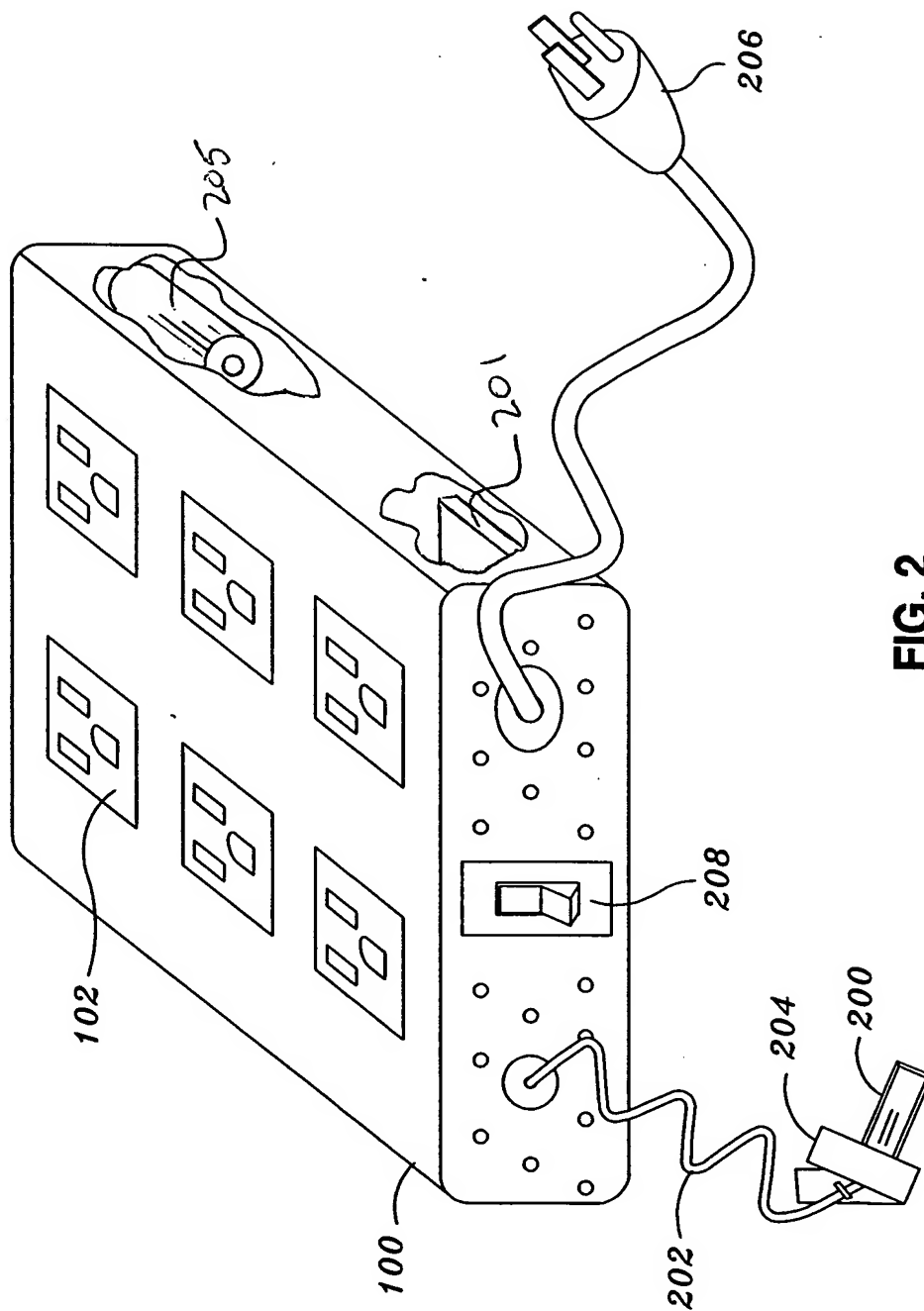


FIG. 2